

III. REMARKS

1. Claim 1 is amended. Claims 18-23 are withdrawn. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of the allowance of claims 13-17.

2. Claim 1 is amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

3. Claims 1-12 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Stoddard et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,207,937 ("Stoddard"). Claim 1 recites, reducing current temperature *setpoints* of each zone in the reactor to a minimum temperature value, monitoring each zone for the minimum temperature value and as the temperature in the reactor begins to increase during the boat push, ramping the reduced current temperature *setpoints* back to an original temperature setpoint. Stoddard does not disclose or suggest these features.

The Examiner notes that Stoddard does not disclose or suggest "reducing current setpoints for each zone; monitoring each zone of the thermal reactor to determine a minimum temperature for each zone; [and] ramping the reduced current *setpoints* back to an original setpoint".

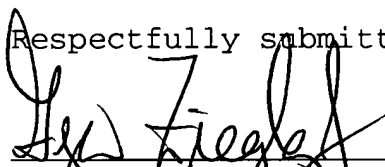
Because Stoddard fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Stoddard to arrive at what is claimed by Applicant. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Stoddard. Claims 2-12 are patentable by reason of their respective dependencies.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly

novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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18 NOV 2005

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